

# Supervisor Romaine, Councilwomen Kept and Bonner Celebrate Davis House Historical Recognition

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**Farmingville, NY** - On October 25, Supervisor Ed Romaine was joined by Councilwomen Jane Bonner and Connie Kept to celebrate the Long Island Chapter of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century historic recognition of the Davis House in Coram. Pictured are Assemblyman Ed Hennessey, Assemblyman Steve Englebright, Councilwoman Kept, National Society Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century, LI Chapter President Betsy Bloomer, Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Bonner.

The Davis House was built in the 1750s, and for over 250 years it was owned by direct male descendents of Foulk Davis who arrived in Southampton in 1642. According to local historian Davis Erhardt, the original owner of the house was probably Elijah Davis (1727-1802) who kept a tavern-inn. Beginning in the 1790s, the house served for 80 years as the seat of the Town of Brookhaven government. The inn was also used as a temperance house in the mid-1800s. By 1890, all commercial use ceased and it became solely a private residence. On April 15, 1986, the Brookhaven Town Board designated the house as an official town landmark, citing it as one of the town's most historic structures. It was declared a New York State landmark in 2000 and a National Landmark in 2001.

"Preservation of our historic landmarks connects us to the past and defines who we are today," said Supervisor Romaine. "The Davis House is an essential part of Brookhaven's history and I commend our Parks Department for taking the lead in restoring this great building. It will once again serve as a central meeting point in the community, just as it was throughout its long and distinguished history."

Councilwoman Bonner said, "It's remarkable how far we have come when you consider that this house sat in disrepair for so many years and was nearly forgotten. At one time this was the center of town government and it deserved much more than that. I thank all the people who worked hard to make sure that this house was restored to its original beauty."

"I was proud to attend the ceremony designating the Davis Town Meeting House as a Historic Landmark by the Long Island Chapter of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century," stated Councilwoman Kept. "The Davis House, which once served as the meeting place for the Brookhaven Town government, is one of the most historic houses in the Town. Designating these historic places and working to restore them is of great importance in preserving our community's vibrant past."

After two years of work, in September 2012 restoration of the Davis House exterior was completed. It included roof replacement; exterior restoration; masonry work; engineering services associated with the completion of the interior structural timber restoration; reconstruction of a new timber framed front porch, and completion of the exterior facade. Once all interior renovations are completed, the Davis House will serve as a multi-use community center for local organizations.

For more information about the Davis House and other historical sites around the Town of Brookhaven, please visit [www.brookhaven.org](http://www.brookhaven.org).

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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